

FCC NEWSLETTER



FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION – A WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

FCC Grant Sustains Fontbonne Visiting Artists Programs

By: Anita Lamont

An invaluable resource for Fontbonne art students is the visiting artists program. For the past five years, students, the art department, faculty, alumni and the public have enjoyed campus visits from compelling artists working today.

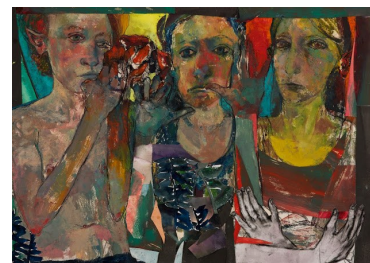
A 2012 grant from FCC made it possible for this program to fund campus visits from two very diverse, nationally recognized artists to not only work closely with undergraduate and graduate students, but also to reach a wide community audience including the Fontbonne community, alumni, and professors from area universities (Washington U, Webster, Lindenwood, SIU-E and others).

Professor Victor Wang invited Jennifer Meanley, a University of North Carolina professor and artist whose collages and prints are striated by light and color. "Jennifer Meanley is an artist whose reputation is well known. To have her here working closely with students for individual critiques and hearing a working artists' ideas, makes a huge difference," said Professor Wang. "She spent time

with students individually, talking about their work and offering them a different perspective – different than our faculty."

Professor Tim Liddy agrees that enabling Fontbonne's students to have direct access to world-renowned artists working across disciplines, helps the program come alive. Professor Liddy had tried for a decade to bring his longtime friend and fellow Creative Studies alum, David Newton, to Fontbonne. Newton creates large works in bronze and stainless steel and his work is internationally known. "David was with our students for three days – two were spent with sculpture classes, working with a live model, and he also participated in my graduate painting critique class. Students were delighted with his knowledge and intellectual versatility."

"We would love to have visiting artists every year. It strengthens our program and it's wonderful for Fontbonne," said Professor Wang.



The artwork pictured above is one of Jennifer Meanley's works.



Graduates of the Last Decade

By: Sue Wallace

One of the grants awarded in 2012 enabled Fontbonne to offer professional development programming targeted to graduates of the last decade (GOLD). The Alumni Office collaborated with the Office of Career Development, as well as academic departments, to research and develop the programs.

During the project, it was discovered that alumni of all background and ages were very interested in getting involved with alumni events and programs supporting networking and professional development.

A wonderful turnout attended the happy hour and speaker event highlighting social media in April 2013. Alumni and students who attended enjoyed the program not only for the networking opportunities, but also learning how to get a broader use from social media.

GOLD alumni received a mailed invitation, an e-card was also sent and 'Save the Date' fliers were given out at events leading up to the April evening. The event was also publicized on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook. Student groups were invited to attend, too. It was a great event; one that allowed alumni interaction with others in similar career situations as well as gaining some career development tips.

The grant amount requested was \$5,000, but due to thoughtful strategic planning, the cost effective event cost only \$4,179.42 which allowed the Alumni Office to leave \$820.58 with the FCC for future grants.

The Alumni Office is very grateful for this grant and the guidance and vision that it provided for future alumni.

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FCC Unleashes Potential

By: Wendy Schneider

When Fontbonne Assistant Professor of Psychology Stephanie Afful solicited the Fontbonne Community Connection for a grant of \$2,400, she dreamed of inspiring students to take their personal educational journeys to a new level by sharing their research with others. Targeting students who were already members of the International Honor Society for Psychology, and armed with FCC support to cover the expenses of six students, and two faculty attending the professional Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois, Afful preyed on the strong spirit within Fontbonne's student body and gave each senior honors psychology student the chance to compete for the right to present their research on a regional stage.

Undergraduate opportunities to present research are rare, so Fontbonne scholars were especially motivated by this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Knowing the experience could also prove itself critical to establishing them within the field, students worked to develop and submit top-notch presentations. Hard work paid dividends and a group of four was selected to speak at the Conference. A public forum held on campus allowed all six the chance to share research on a local level.

The quality of Fontbonne presentations correlated to the unusually high number of invitations to speak and gave our University an unexpected marketing advantage over other institutions represented. Networking was plentiful and at the end of the week, student synergy had inspired many ideas that will help students build new dreams.

All six project participants successfully applied to graduate schools in what is a rigorously competitive environment with far more applicants than spaces. It is certain that the Chicago experience provided them with a great opportunity. One student remarked, "This particular conference experience was without a doubt one of the best experiences I have had at Fontbonne and being able to share it with students who I have grown with in my college career made it all the better." Elizabeth Crabtree is already engaged in a follow-up study on campus this semester and next. Andrea Jumper also continues her work and is a guest speaker and advocate for a local speech pathology organization.

To the Fontbonne Community Connection, a huge round of applause for penning a "new chapter" in the lives of our students. You inspire others to strive to be the best.



The excitement of learning separates youth from old age. As long as you're learning you're not old.

-- Rosalyn S. Yalow

Remembering Doris Prag Wilson '62

Doris was a graduate of Fontbonne Class of 1962 and FCC member. She passed away October 18, 2013. FCC members offer heartfelt sympathy and support to her family and loved ones. Longtime friend Nancy Jersa, remembers Doris.

"A grand friend, good pal in ways no end: A cheery, chummy, splendid friend."

This is a quote from Doris's high school yearbook: Her life was one of total dedication to others, in her career as well as her personal life.

A beautiful Christian woman who was a 2005 recipient of the Fontbonne University Founder's Award.



New Member Spotlight

By: Sue Wallace

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Jan Reilly graduated in 1966, with a degree in Home Economics Education. She was very shy back then, and very studious, 'hanging out' in the library many nights. Jan was a 'day hop' and took the bus to Fontbonne. She loved her teachers and appreciated their hard work and creativity. Eldest of six children, she

helped out at home, many times babysitting her siblings.

Jan has been married to Dennis Reilly for 47 years and have lived in Illinois, Connecticut and Mississippi and of course, St. Louis. Throughout her multifaceted career, Jan taught home economics, sold cars and was a kitchen and bath designer. Jan and Dennis have three children (one a graduate of Fontbonne) and 12 grandchildren.

In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, sewing and travel. She has been blessed by being able to take several trips to Europe.

Jan is a new member of the FCC and became involved through her relationship with the Alumni Board and her dear friends, Kathy Coco, DeDe Caspari, and Nina Bryans. She says that the sudden death of Kathy lead her to the realization that the best way to honor her, was to become a member of something Kathy helped start.

Jan's favorite part of FCC membership is the awards. She says that she was lucky enough to join right before the grant awarding process. According to Jan, hearing from faculty about the excitement that the grant awards bring to campus is a fulfilling experience. Jan is also serving as this year's Corresponding Secretary for the FCC.

She hopes that the FCC can continue to grow and expand its grant awards and to keep the enthusiasm going.

Welcome to the FCC, Jan!

Founders Awards Dinner

By: Rosemary Quigley

On October 17 a group of FCC members attended the Annual Founder's Day Awards Dinner at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park. Following the cocktail hour and delicious dinner, medallions were placed around the necks of the five 2013 recipients. Three of these honorees are charter members of the Fontbonne Community Connection.

Kathy Atchity Coco '66 was given a posthumous award for Distinguished Service to the Dear Neighbor in Need. Kathy's husband Matteo accepted the award on behalf of Kathy's family, also in attendance. He recalled Kathy's life of service both as a teacher and a tireless volunteer at her sons' schools, Seven Holy Founders' Parish, Fontbonne University and the Ladies of Charity St. Vincent/Guardian Angel. Her inspiring life of service made Kathy, who passed away one year ago, truly worthy of this recognition.

The family of Karen DeGuire Gedera '65 watched proudly as Karen, a past FCC Chair and current Membership Co-Chair, accepted her award for Distinguished Service to Fontbonne University. A loyal alumna and passionate advocate for the University, she has also serves on the University's Council of Regents. Karen spoke of passion her mother had for the Sisters of St. Joseph and the schools she attended led to her desire to see the University continue to flourish.

Jane Hassett, CSJ was honored for Distinguished Service in CSJ Values and Mission. Well known to attendees as a former Fontbonne teacher and president, Sister Jane continues to find ways to advance the missions of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Fontbonne University. The latter included her work preserving University history and authoring two books on the school's history – *As Strong as the Granite* and *A Decade of Growth*. With her characteristic wit, wisdom and humility Sister expressed her gratitude for this most recent honor.



Sister Jane Hassett



Karen Gedera



Matt Coco

Alumni Service Award: Nina Bryans



Nina Bryans received the Service to the University Award at the Reunion Brunch of Sunday, September 15. The award recognizes an alumnus or alumna who demonstrates outstanding loyalty, service and dedication to the university and to the Fontbonne Alumni Association.

Nina graduated from Fontbonne in 1957. She worked for the Department of Defense for 17 years and retired in September 2001. She is one of the founding members of the FCC as well as chair of the History and Archived committee. Congratulations Nina!

Coming Events

FCC 2013-2014 Events and Important Dates

Friday, November 1, 2013, 5:00-7:00 PM

Happy Hour Celebration—Come meet and mingle with FCC members and present/past award recipients, and welcome faculty and staff who are new to Fontbonne.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

2014 Award Season Opens (Preliminary Application is available)

Sunday, February 16, 2013, 5:00-7:00 PM

Spirituality Committee presents speaker John O'Leary

Thursday, March 27, 2013, Time TBD

A Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of an Exciting Vatican II Document

FCC 2012-2013 Officers and Committee Chairs

OFFICERS

Chair - Joan Falk

Vice Chair - Anita Lamont

Recording Secretary - Rosemary Quigley

Corresponding Secretary - Jan Reilly

Treasurer - Barb Atteln

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards - Kathy Von Minden

Events - DeDe Caspari

Membership - Maggie Fowler
Karen Gedera

PR - Anita Lamont

Bylaws - Barb Atteln

Archives & History - Nina Bryans



Message from the Chair



Dear Fellow FCC Members,

Like you, I love FCC events that are fun, enriching and bring lots of members together. Our November 1st "Happy Hour" celebration will be exactly that. (It's actually two happy hours -- but all the better!) What may well be our most delightful event yet will include tasty treats, toasts and informally visiting with fellow FCC members and with past and current grant recipients. Also, new faculty and staff have been invited to hear how the FCC has energized the campus. And several grant recipients will share what the programs have meant to them, personally. This sounds like a "don't miss event" to me!

A focus on gratitude seems a perfect way to launch the month of November, as we reflect on our abundant blessings. Let's share thankfulness for what we've accomplished together. (And let us know if you'd like to bring an appetizer or bottle of wine.) If you have prospective members in mind, this would be a terrific introduction to who we are and what we do.

Your official invitation was emailed/sent earlier this month. Please respond, and we'll celebrate together!

Joan

Joan Buxton Falk
FCC Chair 2013-2014